

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

17th Legislative District

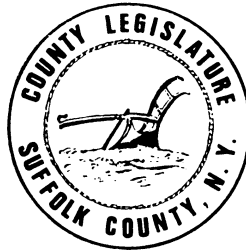
130 West Jericho Turnpike

Huntington Station, NY 11746

Tel: (631) 854-4433

Fax: (631) 854-4415

Lou.Damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov



COMMITTEES:

VICE CHAIR – Environment,

Planning & Agriculture

Budget & Finance

Veterans & Seniors

For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Klafter (631) 854-4433

Give Your Family the Gift of Safety

Legislator D'Amaro Offers Tips to Help Avert Fires Throughout the Holiday Season

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... DECEMBER 19, 2011) – According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), each year fires during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 others and cause more than \$990 million in damage. It can take only a few seconds for a fire to fully engulf a room. To avoid a disaster this holiday season, Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) and Suffolk County Commissioner of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Joe Williams offer the following safety tips:

Placing the Christmas tree:

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut one to two inches from the base of the trunk. Water your tree at least once a day and keep it from blocking halls, stairs and exits. Keep the tree away at least three feet away from baseboards, fireplaces and other heat sources. Artificial trees and should be checked to make sure they are certified and identified by the manufacturer as fire resistant or retardant.

Lighting the tree:

Use only non-combustible decorations. Check and replace worn or damaged light sets or wires and use only U.L. or F.M. approved lights. Do not run wiring for trees or other indoor displays

(more)

under rugs and carpets and NEVER use candles on or near a tree. Disconnect lights at bedtime or while away from the house, make sure smoke detectors are in place and operating properly and have a family escape plan ready in the event of an emergency.

Safety around candles including Chanukah and Kwanza menorahs:

Never leave a lit candle unattended. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost 40 percent of all fires occurred after candles were left unsupervised or inadequately controlled. Do not place candles where a family pet could knock them over. Always extinguish all candles before going to bed; last year, 13 percent of candle-related fires started after the user fell asleep.

“Enjoy the excitement of the holiday season, but, amidst the planning and festivities, please take every precaution necessary to keep you, your family and your homes safe,” Legislator D’Amaro said.

#

Suffolk County Legislator Lou D’Amaro (D-Huntington Station) represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of North Babylon, Deer Park, Dix Hills, Melville, West Hills, Huntington, South Huntington, and Huntington Station. He is Vice-Chairman of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture committee and a member of the Budget & Finance and Veterans & Seniors committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.